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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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David T. Nikaido
RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER, PLLC
1233 20th Street, NW, Suite 501
Washington, DC 20036

EXAMINER

JOO, JOSHUA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/025,790	Applicant(s) LI ET AL.	
	Examiner Joshua Joo	Art Unit 2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment filed 1/19/2006

1. Claims 1-7 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guheen et al, US Publication #2004/0107125, in view of Zajkowski et al, US Patent #6,705,517 (Zajkowski hereinafter) and McKinney et al, US Publication #2005/0188009 (McKinney hereinafter).

4. As per claim 1, Guheen teaches substantially the invention as claimed including a network communication system connecting a network management center (Page 10; Paragraph 3145. Management center) and a plurality of customer terminals (Paragraph 3146. Terminals.). Guheen teachings comprise of:

said network management center in said system is comprised of hardware portions: a network center server (Page 8; Paragraph 0136; 03999. Server.), auxiliary PCs (Pages 9-10; Paragraph 3139; 4001. Secondary server.) or an embedded operation system, network equipment including network cards in server (Paragraph 3139; 3141. Server communicates with other servers and users. Network cards are inherent.) and network cables (Paragraph 2876; 3025. Network cables is inherent.), and software portions (Page 8, 10. Application software.): an information data database (Page 8; Page 13; Paragraph 2240; 2624. Information

Art Unit: 2154

database.), a network management database (Page 8; Paragraph 1202; 2608. Management database.), an electronic business database (Page 12-14; Paragraph 3141. Business database.), management software (Page 11. Management software.), encrypt key authentication (Page 10, Encryption, key management, and authentication.) and an information safety software package including a firewall or VPN system (Page 10, VPN. Firewall.); said customer terminal is comprised of a customer terminal host (Paragraph 3146. Terminal.) and a customer terminal slave (Paragraph 3145-3146. Dispense information, goods and services.), said a customer terminal slave is chosen according to the requirements of a local user and providing different service items and contents (Paragraph 3145. Take orders for goods and services from customers and deliver goods and services.); said network communication system is comprised of the Internet (Paragraph 3141; 4037. Internet), a wired and/or wireless local area network (Paragraph 2534. LAN.) and computer buses (Paragraph 0147. Bus.)

5. Guheen teaches substantial features of the claimed invention including an off line system wherein a terminal comprises of a plurality of slaves (Paragraph 3146. Dispenser, printer, card reader), and an online system wherein terminals dispense information, goods, and services (Paragraph 3145). However, Guheen does not specifically teach of a plurality of customer terminal slaves in a network communication system and said customer terminal slaves chosen according to the requirements of a local user and providing different service items and contents; and a plurality of terminal server cabinets constructed in a building block architecture.

6. Zajkowski teaches of a plurality of terminals, wherein the terminals comprise of a plurality of terminal slaves (Col 2, lines 60-66. A cash dispenser, a printer, and a card reader).

Art Unit: 2154

7. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Guheen and Zajkowski because both teachings are related in that they teach of terminals capable of dispensing services to customers. Furthermore, the teachings of Zajkowski to provide a plurality of terminal slaves would improve the teaching of Guheen by increasing the capability of the terminals, thus providing a greater level of service to the customers.

8. McKinney teaches of a server utilizing a building block architecture (Paragraph 0015).

9. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Guheen, Zajkowski, and McKinney because the teachings of McKinney to utilize a building block architecture would improve the system of Guheen and Zajkowski by reducing the development efforts due to block reuse in designs.

10. As per claim 2, Guheen teaches the network system based self-help service according to claim 1, characterized in that said information data database is comprised of a database storing all kinds of information collected by the network based self-help system for the local public and a dedicated Internet web site (Paragraph 3136; 3145. Server stores information to provides services to customers and clients. Paragraph 3477; 3836. Web page to access data on the network.).

11. As per claim 7, Guheen teaches the network system based self-help service according to claim 1, characterized in that said information service machine is an information query machine, a video telephone set, a printer or a photocopier, or a combination of them (Paragraph 3146. Printer.).

12. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guheen, McKinney, and Zajkowski, in view of Davis et al, US Patent #5,544,086 (Davis hereinafter), and Kavounas, US Publication #2003/0014359 (Kavounas hereinafter).

13. As per claim 3, Guheen teaches the network system based self-help service, characterized in that said customer terminal host is comprised of a communication and control panel (Paragraph 3145. Customer inputs desired information.), a communication and control interface connected to said network management center (Paragraph 3145. Terminal connected to central data processing center.), general purpose computer operating software (Paragraph 3145. Gather information and provide services.) data management software for said host and said slave, a software system for the communication with said network management center (Paragraph 3145. Transmits information to and from central processing center.), and a software system for the network (Paragraph 3145. Transmits information to and from central processing center.) and data safety maintenance (Page 10, Security management.).

14. However, Guheen does not specifically teach of the customer terminal host comprising a PC host, a touch screen display, a keyboard, a communication and control interface connected to all types of cash dispensers in the main cabinet, a communication and control interface connected to each one of the customer terminal slaves, paper currency and coin receiver, a value storing card reader, a value adding card reader, IC card reader or magcard reader, a small change machine, and a phone bank payment module.

15. Zajkowski teaches of terminals connected to a central system, where each terminal comprises: a PC (Col 3, line 1. Computer), a touch screen display (Col 2, line 62. Touch screen), a keyboard (Col 2, line 62. Keyboard), a communication and control interface

Art Unit: 2154

connected to all types of cash dispensers in the main cabinet (Col 2, line 63. Connection to a cash dispenser.), and a communication and control interface connected to every customer terminal slaves (Col 2, line 62-66. Dispenser, printer, card reader).

16. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Guheen, McKinney, and Zajkowski because the teachings of Zajkowski for a terminal of Guheen to comprise of components of above Paragraph 15 would improve the system of Guheen, McKinney, and Zajkowski by providing additional functions to the terminals, which would improve the level of service to the customers.

17. Davis teaches of terminals comprising of coin and paper currency receivers (Col 6, line 60. Coin and bill receiving device), a value storing card reader, a value adding card reader (Col 4, lines 9-11, 46-61. Load value into SVC), a IC card reader (Col 4, lines 41-44; Col 6, lines 65-67. Read SVC.); and a small change machine (Col 5, line 54-56. Cash drawer.).

18. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Guheen, McKinney, Zajkowski, and Davis because the teachings of Davis for a terminal of Guheen to comprise the components of above Paragraph 17 would improve the system of Guheen, McKinney, and Zajkowski by providing additional functions to the terminals, which would improve the level of service to the customers.

19. Kavounas teaches of a telephone and/or mobile phone bank payment module (Paragraph 0011; 0015. Payment by phone).

20. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Guheen, McKinney, Zajkowski, Davis, and Kavounas

Art Unit: 2154

because the teachings of Kavounas for a terminal of Guheen to comprise the components of above Paragraph 19 would improve the system of Guheen, McKinney, and Zajkowski by providing additional functions to the terminals that would improve the level of service to the customers by allowing different methods of payment.

21. Claims 4-5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guheen, Zajkowski, and McKinney, in view of Davis.

22. As per claim 4, Guheen does not teach the network system based self-help service according to claim 1, characterized in that said customer terminal slaves are comprised of 2-6 cabinets of dispensers or card dispensers or information service machines constructed by way of building block architecture, said customer terminal slaves may provide 6-30 service items.

23. Davis teaches of a plurality of terminals comprising of a plurality of dispensers (Col 7, lines 8-10), wherein the dispenser are capable of providing a plurality of individual items (Col 6, lines 56).

24. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Guheen, Zajkowski, McKinney, and Davis because the teachings of Davis to providing a plurality of terminals comprising of a plurality of dispensers, and the dispensers capable of providing a plurality of service items would improve the system of Guheen, Zajkowski, and McKinney by improving customer service by providing a plurality of terminals with greater functionality.

25. McKinney teaches of a server utilizing a building block architecture (Paragraph 0015).

Art Unit: 2154

26. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Guheen, Zajkowski, Davis, and McKinney because the teachings of McKinney to utilize a building block architecture would improve the system of Guheen, Zajkowski, and Davis because a building block architecture would reduce the development efforts due to block reuse in designs as taught by Guheen.

27. As per claim 5, Guheen, Zajkowski, McKinney, and Davis taught the network system based self-help service according to claim 4. Guheen further teaches the system characterized in that said dispensers in said customer terminal slaves are food dispensers, beverage dispensers or general merchandise dispensers (Paragraph 3145; 3146. Dispense good and services.).

28. As per claim 7, Guheen, Zajkowski, McKinney, and Davis taught the network system based self-help service according to claim 4. Guheen further teaches the system characterized in that said information service machine is an information query machine, a video telephone set, a printer or a photocopier, or a combination of them (Paragraph 3145. Provide documents. Paragraph 3146. Printer.).

29. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guheen, Zajkowski, McKinney, and Davis, in view of Mothwurf, US Publication #2003/0115102 (Mothwurf hereinafter).

30. As per claim 6, Guheen teaches of providing a dispenser for voice and video information (Paragraph 4146). However, Guheen does not teach the network system based self-help

Art Unit: 2154

service according to claim 4, characterized in that the card dispenser in the said customer terminal slaves is a ticket dispenser, a card dispenser, or a combination of them.

31. Mothwurf teaches of terminals comprising of ticket dispensers (Paragraph 0103).

32. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Guheen, Zajkowski, McKinney, Davis, and Mothwurf because the teachings of Morthwurf to provide terminals capable of dispensing tickets would improve the system of the Guheen, Zajkowski, McKinney, and Davis by improving the capability of the terminals, thus providing additional functions to service customers.

Response to Arguments

33. Applicant's arguments filed 1/19/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that (1) The U.S. filing date of the application (12/26/2001) and the claimed priority dates of the application (9/13/01, 7/17/01) precede the filing dates of the applied art as well as the publication dates of the applied art of Guheen et al, Zajkowski et al, and McKinney et al. In addition, Mothwurf cannot be applied against the claimed invention because Mothwurf was published on 1/16/03; (2) For claim 3, Kavounas cannot be applied against the claimed invention because Kavounas was published on 1/16/03, such date being subsequent to the US filing date; and (3) US 5,544,086 and the present invention are different because: in the present invention, the terminal host may perform local-settlement and service concludes good and information (such as videos, songs, stock, quotes, etc...) including information that is cost free, but in the US 5,544,086, the stored value transaction system need to perform collecting, transferring, consolidating, and settlement through network, and services

Art Unit: 2154

only concludes goods. The network system of the present invention comprise features of claim 1 (Page 6, Paragraph 0001 of Applicant's Remarks), while US 5,544,085 comprises the transferring devices, the collection device, the consolidation device, and the network settlement device. Finally in, the present invention, the network system based self-help service integrates self-help industry, network information and electronic business into a while, making different techniques of three areas assembled together.

Examiner traverses the arguments:

34. As to point (1), claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). However, for a 35 U.S.C 103(a) rejection, a patent may not be obtained when the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in Section 102. Therefore, according to 35 U.S.C. 102(e), rejections may be made under the filing date of Applications. In MPEP 2136.02, the Supreme Court has authorized 35 U.S.C 103 rejections based on 35 U.S.C 102(e).

35. The reference of Guheen et al, US Publication #2004/0107125 is a continuation of application No. 09/320,816, filed on May 27, 1999. Therefore, Guheen's earliest effective filing date is May 27, 1999, which is prior to Applicant's priority dates. The reference of McKinney et al, US Publication #2005/0188009 is a continuation of application No. 10/037,129 filed on Jan. 4, 2002, which is a continuation of application No. 08/802,827, filed on Feb. 19, 1997, now Pat. No. 6,374, 329. Therefore, McKinney's earliest effective filing date is Feb. 19, 1997, which is prior to Applicant's priority dates.

36. Zajkowski et al, US Patent #6,705,517, is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/193,787, filed on Nov. 17, 1998. According to MPEP 2136.03, the filing Date of U.S. Parent Application can be used as the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) date if it supports the claims of the Issued

Art Unit: 2154

Child. In this case Application No. 09/193,787 supports the claims of the issued child, which is US Patent #6,705,517. (See Page 17, lines 1-11; Page 12, lines 18-22; Page 27, line 6 – Page 30, line 8, Page 34, lines 8-21, Page 45, lines 1-9 of Application #09/193,787). Furthermore, the previously cited reference of Zajkowski from US Patent #6,705,517 in the previous office action are found in Application #09/193,787 on Page 1, lines 6-18 and Page 13, line 4 – Page 14, line 10.

37. Finally, according MPEP 706.02, the earliest effective filing date of an application is the same as the divisional application. The reference of Mothwurf, US 2003/0115102 is a division of application No. 09/496,576, filed on Feb. 2, 2000. Therefore, Mothwurf's earliest effective filing date is Feb. 2, 2000, which is prior to Applicant's priority dates.

38. As to point (2), according MPEP 706.02, the application claims benefit to the filing date of the provisional application if the claims are supported by the provisional application. In this case, Kavounas, US Publication #2003/0014359, claims priority to provisional application No. 60/178,262, filed on Jan. 25, 2000 and Provisional application No. 60/228,951, filed on Aug. 28, 2000. The previously cited reference of Kavounas from US Publication #2003/0014359 in the previous office action are found in Application #06/178,262 on pages 3-4.

39. As to point (3), in response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., terminal host performing local settlement; service concluding goods and information (such as videos, songs, stocks, quotes, weather forecasts, notices of government, cost-free information) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light

Art Unit: 2154

of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

As to applicant's arguments that US 5,544,055 does not teach certain features, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Finally Applicant arguments that the invention is patentable because of Applicant's reason that the network system based self-help service integrates self-help industry, network information and electronic business into a whole, making different techniques of three areas assembled together fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.

40. Examiner's Note:

In the future, Applicant is advised to amend claims in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121.

Conclusion

41. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

Art Unit: 2154


CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

42. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua Joo whose telephone number is 571 272-3966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 7 to 4.

43. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on 571 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned 571-273-8300.

44. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

February 27, 2006
JJ

 **JOHN FOLLANSBEE**
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100